SUPERIOR COURTS CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

BEN HILL, CRISP, DOOLY & WILCOX COUNTIES

JUDGE T. CHRISTOPHER HUGHES P.O. Box 5149 FITZGERALD, GA 31750 PHONE 229-426-5638 Fax 229-426-5639

JUDGE DENISE D. FACHINI P.O. Box 5025 CORDELE, GA 31010 PHONE 229-271-4722 FAX 229-271-4714

April 27, 2021

CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT W. CHASTEEN, JR. P.O. Box 448 FITZGERALD, GA 31750 PHONE 229-426-5139 Fax 229-426-5733

Dr. Lloyd Stembridge 1137 North Merrimac Arbor Baptist Church Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Dear Dr. Lloyd:

I personally want to thank you and Arbor Baptist Church for making the Family Life Center available to the court system for our April Term of Ben Hill Superior Court. Because of the statewide Covid-19 pandemic, we have been unable to have jury trials in Ben Hill County for over a year. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia lifted that prohibition and in Order dated March 9, 2021 provided that we were able to comply with the CDC guidelines. Due to social distancing there is only room for a limited number of jurors at the Ben Hill County Courthouse. Thanks to Arbor Baptist Church we were able to call in approximately 70 jurors for jury service and keep them socially distanced.

We were able to dispose over 50 cases from the trial calendar by being able to conduct jury selection at the Family Life Center. There was simply no way we would have been able to dispose of that many cases if we had been limited to using the Ben Hill County Courthouse. I want you to know that everyone involved in the court system is deeply grateful to Arbor Baptist Church for allowing us to use this facility and it worked out perfectly. Gary Smith is also to be commended for setting up our sound system. Again, we are grateful for everyone who helped to make this a successful project.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT W. CHASTEEN

CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS CORDELE JUDICIAL CHRCUIT

Honorable T. Christopher Hughes cc: Honorable Denise D. Fachini

> Mr. Steve Taylor Mr. Mike Dinnerman